

REMARKS

Overview

The present application included claims 1-3 and 5-21. With this Amendment, Applicant has cancelled claims 2 and 6-20, amended claims 1 and 21, and added new claims 22-42. As such, claims 1-3 and 5, and 21-42 are pending in this application.

Anticipation Rejections

The Official Action rejected claims 7-8 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Wheeler U.S. Patent No. 2,925,913 (hereinafter "Wheeler"). As indicated above, claims 7 and 8 have been cancelled. Wheeler discloses constructing filter tubes by wrapping a single piece of wire in a helical path around a cylinder (col. 3, lines 3-6 and 35). However, Wheeler does not disclose constructing filter tubes using wire mesh, an interconnected network of substantially horizontal wires and substantially vertical wires.

Regarding claim 21, Applicant respectfully submits that Wheeler does not disclose "an air vent positioned to release air that is removed from the flow of liquid by the plurality of tubes." Therefore, Applicant submits that claim 21 is in condition for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested. New claims 22-26 depend from claim 21. Allowance of claims 21-26 is respectfully requested.

Obviousness Rejections

The Official Action rejected claims 1-2 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Blace U.S. Patent No. 4,051,033 (hereinafter "Blace") in view of Wheeler. Claims 2 and 6 have been cancelled. The Official Action admitted that Blace does not disclose wire mesh tubes (p. 5), and as discussed above, Applicant respectfully submits that Wheeler does not disclose wire mesh tubes as required by claim 1. Furthermore, claim 1 requires "...the flow of liquid being directed to enter and exit the side walls of the plurality of wire mesh tubes." As shown in Fig. 1 of Wheeler, the flow of liquid does not exit the side walls of tubes 18. For at least this reasons, Applicant submits that independent claim 1 is in condition for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested. Claims 3, 5 and new claims 27-30 depend from claim 1

and are believed to be in condition for allowance for at least the reasons given in connection with claim 1 and for the further limitations of claims. Such action is respectfully requested.

The Official Action rejected claims 3 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Blace in view of Wheeler as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Müller. The Official Action admitted that neither Blace (p. 5) nor Müller (p. 4) disclose wire mesh tubes, and as discussed above, Applicant respectfully submits that the combination with Wheeler does not disclose wire mesh tubes. Claims 3 and 5 depend from claim 1 and are believed to be in condition for allowance for at least the reasons given in connection with claim 1 and for the further limitations of claims 3 and 5. Such action is respectfully requested.

Miscellaneous Amendment & Additional Claims

New claim 31 requires an "elongate core element; and a plurality of wire mesh tubes."
New claim 36 requires "a plurality of wire mesh tubes...the flow of liquid flowing in a direction substantially transverse to the longitudinal axis of the plurality of wire mesh tubes."

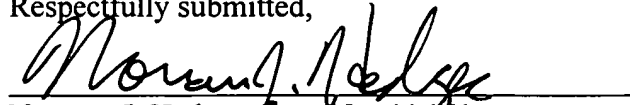
Final Remarks

Claims 1, 3, 5 and 21-42 are believed to be in condition for allowance. Such allowance is respectfully requested.

If necessary, please consider this a Petition for Extension of Time to effect a timely response. Please charge any additional fees or credits to the account of Baker & Daniels Deposit Account No. 02-0390.

In the event that there are any questions related to these amendments or to the application in general, the undersigned would appreciate the opportunity to address those questions directly in a telephone interview to expedite the prosecution of this application for all concerned.

Respectfully submitted,



Norman J. Hedges, Reg. No. 44,151

BAKER & DANIELS LLP

300 North Meridian Street, Suite 2700

Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Telephone: (317) 237-8691

Facsimile: (317) 237-1000